

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Faustina Smith-Neil, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Fisseha Adugna, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie

Guests Present: Mark Pharaoh, Melissa McKenna, Paul Geller, Jude Gomez, Margaret Poore, Mara Parker, Margie Goergen-Rood, Len Newman, Sgt. Robert Phillip, Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhelm, Danielle Alvarado, Andre Vainqueur, Eugene Gooden, Vikki Garcia, James Williamson, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Ken Flemmer

Staff Present: Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh.

Community Comments: Attendee(s) were provided the opportunity to raise concerns that they wanted to have addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. Some expressed concerns were in relation to sidewalk design and pedestrian safety along Randolph Road in Colesville, streetscape, need for community spaces.

Approval of the May 3, 2017 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the June 7, 2017 summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Presentations by Special Guests: Peter Fosselman, Montgomery County White Oak Implementation Coordinator provided an update on White Oak Planning Area Developments, which included the following topics:

- Overview of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan including information on Federal facilities, existing housing stock, local demographics, and commuter statistics
- Status updates for the following development projects:
 1. FDA headquarters consolidation
 2. Viva White Oak (280 acres, mixed use, 7M sq. ft. commercial, 5,500 residences)
 3. Washington Adventist Hospital (opening Spring 2019)
 4. Hillandale Gateway (mixed use retail/residential)
 5. Town Center (Industrial Pkwy & Tech Road, mixed use retail/residential)
 6. Hilton hotel (100 rooms, branded Home2 Suites, extended-stay)
 7. Plans for aging shopping centers (White Oak, Hillandale & Cherry Hill)
- Bus Rapid Transit planning, funding, timelines and the corridor advisory work groups
- Local Area Transportation Improvement Program report
- Paint Branch water system (environmental protections under Master Plan)
- Plans for formation of Friends of White Oak standing committee

Questions were posed to and addressed by Mr. Fosselman and included discussions on social integration of communities, marketing of the White Oak area, schools and anchor tenants, and the condition of the Lockwood Drive Transit Center.

ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin provided a summary of topics discussed at the ECCAB Retreat that was held in August – public safety/road traffic, economic development/opportunities for East County residents, education and schools, transportation/Bus Rapid Transit system, workforce development, social service delivery in East County, Burtonsville Crossing shopping center revitalization.

ECCAB Vice-Chair Curtis Watkins gave a summary of his proposal from community outreach “listening sessions” as discussed at the August ECCAB retreat. A motion was made and approved to refer the proposal to the Quality of Life Committee for further study.

Update from Montgomery County 3rd and 4th Districts Police Department: MCPD Commander Marcus Jones provided general crime statistics for the 3rd district, including a discussion on recent shootings in White Oak and the Department’s successful efforts working with Grady Management to implement a crime suppression detail. A community member raised a concern about traffic safety on Randolph Rd and Commander Jones responded that he will engage the Department of Transportation to address the issue. Officer Phillips of the 4th District station provided a general crime report on the 4th district. A question was raised by Chairman Peter Myo Khin regarding police response to outdoor marijuana consumption and Commander Jones responded that there is little police can do if it is on private property.

Update from Council Staff: Representative Mara Parker briefed the board on matters including but not limited to the following topics: county ban on performance animals, hearing on transient housing, deer hunting regulations and the minimum wage study and scheduled public hearing.

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates: There were no committee reports on this occasion. It was determined that the next sub-committee meetings would be combined into a joint meeting on September 11.

New Business: A motion was made and approved to submit a statement to the County Executive recommending that the Board of Elections maintain the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center as an Early Voting Site.

Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh reported that 24 applicants were recently interviewed to fill 6 open positions for ECCAB board members. Three members reapplied for another term

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.